

~~TOP SECRET~~DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY

31 JUL 1964

Dear Bud,

This is in response to our discussion relative to advanced studies and to my letter to you of July 20, 1964.

ILLEGIB

Since the results of your advanced aircraft studies in FY 1964 led to generally unfavorable conclusions, I consider that we are not justified in carrying into FY 1965 the [] that remains from the [] authorized in FY 1964, simply against the contingency that the studies may be continued. On the other hand, we can consider authorizing limited FY 65 funds for studies related to advanced aircraft at any time that a specific and clear requirement is identified. Accordingly, the (S) NRO Comptroller will direct the application of the [] FY 64 carryover to other specific approved items in Director, Program B, FY 65 plan.

In our conversation of June 15th, I agreed to the application of [] that remained, from funds released in FY 1964 for studies of [], to studies of the [] concept during FY 1965. I urged at that time that studies on [] concentrate on the problems of [] and wide-band data transmission, including further study as necessary of the concept of satellite relay.

In a memorandum to me of July 15, 1964, the Director, Program B, outlined a series of [] studies, estimated to cost [] which included investigations of overall payload design and of the application of specific guidance technology. For reasons noted below, I do not consider that these latter two studies are necessary or appropriate

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at the present time. Therefore, I am concerned as to the extent Director, Program B, may now be committed to the contractors involved. I am sure you will agree that only minimum funds should be applied to these particular items until more basic problems involved in the [] concept are under control.

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Your discussion of [] covered both high altitude and low altitude concepts. The characteristics proposed for the high altitude system match very closely those of the []

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[] Should it appear that there is need for a system of this kind, I am sure that it would be far quicker and more economical to recover the [] hardware and designs than to engage in a new development.

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The low altitude concept depends for its success on the possibility of [] possibly aided by satellite relays. Therefore, I feel, as suggested above and as stated in our June discussion, that studies should first concentrate on the critical problems - those related to the []

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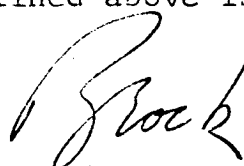
[] Should it be found that significant improvements can be expected in this technology, then the other aspects of the system can be examined against the full array of requirements that might be imposed upon a []

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I would appreciate your interest in the [] studies to insure that the approach outlined above is closely followed.

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Brockway McMillan
Director

(S) National Reconnaissance Office

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Dr. Albert D. Wheelon
Central Intelligence Agency

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